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Agenda item 99 (b)

OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT: ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Lesotho, Namibia, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe: draft resolution

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Southern African Development Community

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 37/248 of 21 December 1982, and all other relevant General Assembly resolutions on the promotion of cooperation between the United Nations and the Southern African Development Community,

Welcoming the strengthening of the Community through the admission of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Seychelles, as member States therein,

Welcoming also the creation of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security as part of the Community, and its role in conflict prevention and maintenance of peace which are essential for development within the region,

Recognizing the strengthening of democratic governance and other positive developments, the consolidation of the peace process, the enhancement of democracy and the respect for the rule of law in the region,

Commending member States of the Community for demonstrating continued commitment to deeper and more formal arrangements for cooperation among themselves and towards the implementation of the Community's Programme of Action as well as its Community Building Programme,

Reaffirming that the successful implementation of the development programmes of the Community can be achieved only if the Community has adequate resources at its disposal,

Noting that the effects of war, loss of life and destruction of economic and social infrastructure in southern Africa demand the continuation and strengthening of rehabilitation programmes to regenerate the economies of the countries of the region,

Noting with grave concern the recurrence of drought in the region and the high probability of the re-emergence of the El Niño phenomenon and the increase of poverty as a result, especially in rural communities,

Welcoming with satisfaction the regional Food Security Strategy which regards poverty eradication as a prime concern, and in particular addresses the issues of improving access to food and nutrition,

Recognizing the valuable and effective economic and financial contribution that some organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system have made to complementing national and subregional efforts to advance the process of democratization, rehabilitation and development in southern Africa,

Noting that the situation in Angola has recently become a source of great concern and that, despite earlier successes in the implementation of certain aspects of the Angolan peace process, that situation is still deteriorating,

Recognizing the risks and challenges posed by the process of globalization and liberalization on the economies of the region,

Welcoming measures being taken by the Southern African Development Community in addressing the human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) pandemic,

Welcoming also the Declaration on Gender and Development adopted by the Community heads of State and/or Government in Blantyre, Malawi, on 8 September 1997, and recognizing the important role that women play in development in the region,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on cooperation between the United Nations and the Southern African Development Community;[1]

2. Commends the Member States and the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system that have maintained, enhanced and initiated development cooperation with the Community;

3. Calls upon the States Members of the United Nations and organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system that have not yet established contact and relationships with the Community to do so;

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[1] A/52/400.

4. Commends the members of the Community for the progress that has been achieved to date in implementing its programme of action;

5. Expresses its appreciation to the international community for the financial, technical and material support given to the Community;

6. Reiterates its appeal to the members of the international community to increase their financial, technical and material support to the Community so as to enable it to implement fully its programmes of action and to meet the reconstruction and rehabilitation needs of the region;

7. Appeals to the international community and to relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to extend appropriate assistance to the Community in order to enable it to advance further the process of regional economic integration;

8. Welcomes the economic and political achievements and reforms undertaken within the Community, which are intended to better address the challenges of regional cooperation and integration now and into the next millennium;

9. Also welcomes the Community declaration on anti-personnel landmines issued by the Community Summit in Blantyre, Malawi, on 8 September 1997, which would contribute greatly towards regional and international support for the signing of a total ban treaty in Ottawa, Canada, in December 1997, and appeals to the United Nations, its related bodies and the international community to assist and support the Community in its efforts to make the region a landmine-free zone;

10. Appeals to the United Nations, its related organs and the international community to assist the Community, with the appropriate resources, in implementing the programmes and decisions adopted by various United Nations world conferences, with specific emphasis on the enhancement of the role of women in the development process;

11. Appeals to the international community as well as to the United Nations system to continue to extend much-needed assistance to those countries of the Community that are engaged in the process of national reconstruction so as to enable them to consolidate their efforts to establish a democracy and enhance the implementation of their national development programmes;

12. Expresses its appreciation for the substantial contributions of Member States, United Nations organizations and non-governmental organizations towards meeting the needs of the Angolan people and encourages additional substantial contributions;

13. Appeals to the international community to comply with Security Council resolution 1127 (1997) on Angola;

14. Appeals to the United Nations and the international community to assist in the strengthening of the region's capacity for sustainable water resource management and to respond generously with respect to the drought

situation in southern Africa so that famine may be averted in the region, by supporting the region in its drought preparedness and management strategies, especially through the strengthening of its capacity to deal with the situation, drought-monitoring early warning and preparedness;

15. Appeals to the United Nations, its related organs and the international community to extend appropriate assistance to the Community Water Sector and to member States of the Community in order that they may advance further in the implementation of the Protocol on Shared Watercourse systems and in the preparations for the Community Water Sector Round-table Conference scheduled for October 1998;

16. Calls upon the international community to support the creation of special economic zones and development corridors in the Community, especially the Maputo Development Corridor which is already under implementation with the active participation of the private sector;

17. Requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Executive Secretary of the Community, to continue to intensify contacts aimed at promoting and harmonizing cooperation between the United Nations and the Community;

18. Also requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

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MACROECONOMIC POLICY QUESTIONS: EXTERNAL DEBT CRISIS AND DEVELOPMENT

United Republic of Tanzania*: draft resolution

Enhancing international cooperation towards a durable solution to the external debt problem of developing countries

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 48/165 of 21 December 1993 and 50/92 of 20 December 1995, the relevant provisions of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole of the General Assembly for the Mid-term Review of the Implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s,[1] and the relevant parts of the Agenda for Development,[2] as well as the results, as agreed, of all major United Nations conferences and summit meetings held since the beginning of the 1990s,

Recalling also its resolution 51/164 of 16 December 1996 on enhancing international cooperation towards a durable solution to the external debt problem of developing countries,

Reaffirming the urgent need for effective, equitable, comprehensive, development-oriented and durable solutions to the external debt and debt-servicing problems of developing countries, and to help them exit from the rescheduling process,

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* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

[1] Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 48 (A/51/48).

[2] General Assembly resolution 51/240, annex.

Noting that stabilization and structural adjustment programmes have been undertaken by developing countries but at considerable social and human costs,

Stressing the need for full, swift and flexible implementation of debt-relief initiatives, so as to assist developing countries, in particular the poorest and heavily indebted countries, especially in Africa, in their efforts to improve their debt situation in view of their continued very high level of total debt stock and servicing burdens,

Noting with concern the continuing debt and debt-servicing problems of indebted developing countries as constituting an element adversely affecting their development efforts and economic growth, and stressing the importance of alleviating the onerous debt and debt-service burdens connected with the various types of debt of many developing countries, on the basis of an effective, equitable, comprehensive, development-oriented and durable approach and addressing the full stock of debt of the poorest and most indebted developing countries as a matter of priority,

Noting that the developing countries that have continued, at great cost to themselves, to meet their international debt and debt-service obligations in a timely fashion have done so despite serious external and domestic financial constraints,

Expressing concern that debt-relief measures taken so far have not yet fully provided effective, equitable, comprehensive, development-oriented and durable solutions to the outstanding debt and debt-servicing problems of a large number of developing countries, in particular the poorest and heavily indebted countries,

Stressing the need for management of the process of globalization and liberalization in a manner that creates a supportive international economic environment with regard to, inter alia, terms of trade, commodity prices, improved market access, trade practices, access to technology, and enhanced financial flows, particularly official development assistance, so as to ensure the sustained growth and development of developing countries,

Stressing also the importance of finding a durable solution to the non-Paris Club debt which has become a serious challenge to many developing countries in their pursuit of sustainable economic development,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the debt situation of the developing countries as at mid-1997;[1]

2. Recognizes that effective, equitable, comprehensive, development-oriented and durable solutions to the external debt and debt-servicing problems of developing countries are essential for the strengthening of the global economy and to the efforts of developing countries to achieve sustained economic growth and sustainable development;

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[1] A/52/290.

3. Notes that further progress, including swift and flexible implementation of innovative approaches and concrete measures, is essential for contributing to effective, equitable, comprehensive, development-oriented and durable solutions to the external debt and debt-servicing problems of developing countries, particularly the poorest and heavily indebted countries;

4. Also notes the adverse impact of the volatility of short-term capital flows, exchange rates and international interest rates on the debt situation of developing countries;

5. Stresses the need for the international community to promote a conducive external economic environment through, inter alia, improved market access, increased resource flows and improved access to technology for the developing countries;

6. Also stresses the need for policy coherence among developed countries so as to avoid volatility of short-term capital flows, exchange rates and international interest rates which can have an adverse impact on the debt situation of developing countries;

7. Further stresses that the evolving debt strategy must be accompanied by a favourable and supportive international economic environment, including the full implementation of the results of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations, and the Marrakesh ministerial decisions in favour of the least developed countries and the net food-importing developing countries;[4]

8. Invites bilateral and multilateral creditors and commercial banks to implement new initiatives including debt swaps, and debt and debt-service cancellation for debtor developing countries in response to the implementation of outcomes and action plans of major United Nations conferences;

9. Recognizes that the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Debt Initiative, endorsed by the Development Committee of the World Bank and the Interim Committee of the International Monetary Fund, was designed to enable heavily indebted poor countries to achieve a sustainable debt situation through coordinated action by all creditors on the basis of adjustment efforts by the debtor countries;

10. Also recognizes that the implementation of the Initiative requires additional financial resources from both bilateral and multilateral creditors without affecting the support required for development activities of developing countries and invites bilateral donors to contribute to the Trust Fund for the implementation of the Initiative;

11. Expresses its concern at the slow progress made to date in implementing the Initiative and in this regard calls for a timely finalization

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[4] See Legal Instruments Embodying the Results of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations, done at Marrakesh on 15 April 1994 (GATT secretariat publication, Sales No. GATT/1994.7).

of the agreements to implement it in order to allow the countries to benefit from the Initiative;

12. Stresses the urgent need for the developed countries to give the Initiative the support it both needs and deserves and to implement it flexibly;

13. Also stresses the importance of implementing the Initiative's eligibility criteria flexibly, in a transparent manner, and with the full involvement of the debtor country, and further stresses the importance of continuously evaluating and actively monitoring the implications of the existing terms of the eligibility criteria in the implementation of the Initiative, so as to ensure sufficient coverage of heavily indebted poor countries;

14. Calls for a reduction in the duration of the track record of sound economic policies required for the provision of debt relief under the Initiative, and in order to allow beneficiary countries to reach debt sustainability rapidly and avoid additional costs associated with delays in debt relief, requests that the period between the decision and completion points be shortened and that interim assistance be provided;

15. Also calls for the provision of additional financial resources by both bilateral and multilateral creditors, including interim financing, without affecting the support required for development activities of developing countries, and encourages bilateral donors to contribute the necessary resources to the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Trust Fund of the World Bank and to the Enhanced Structural Adjustment Facility Trust Fund of the International Monetary Fund for the implementation of the Initiative;

16. Stresses the need for the Paris Club to swiftly implement the decision to go beyond the Naples terms to provide debt reduction, including debt stock cancellation for the poorest and most heavily indebted countries, and urges all other bilateral creditors to make comparable contributions in the context of coordinated efforts by all countries;

17. Recognizes the efforts of indebted developing countries in regard to fulfilling their commitments on debt servicing despite the incurring of a high social cost;

18. Notes with concern the continuing burden of debt and debt-service obligations of middle-income developing countries and, in this regard, encourages all creditors to continue their initiatives and efforts to address the debt problems of middle-income developing countries;

19. Invites creditor countries, commercial banks and multilateral financial institutions to continue the initiatives and efforts to address the commercial debt problems of the least developed countries and the requests for continued mobilization of resources through the Debt-reduction Facility of the International Development Association in order to help least developed countries reduce their commercial debt;

20. Expresses concern at the lack of funding for continuous Enhanced Structural Adjustment Facility operations and invites the Executive Board of the

International Monetary Fund to consider favourably a portion sale of its gold reserves in order to generate income that can be used for this purpose;

21. Welcomes the recommendations made by the Executive Board of the World Bank to allocate an additional 250 million United States dollars from International Bank for Reconstruction and Development surplus to the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Trust Fund so as to meet the Bank's share of debt relief, as well as the authorization by the Executive Board of the International Monetary Fund of a transfer of up to 180 million special drawing rights to finance special Enhanced Structural Adjustment Facility operations under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries initiative;

22. Expresses strong support for the continuation of Enhanced Structural Adjustment Facility operations and also expresses serious concern about the lack of consensus regarding its funding modalities in the interim period (2001-2004);

23. Stresses the need for intensive efforts to secure adequate funding for the eleventh replenishment of the International Development Association and the need for an adequate twelfth replenishment of the Association to a level commensurate with the needs of the poorest countries;

24. Reaffirms the Mid-term Global Review of Progress towards the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s,[5] in particular the appropriate actions in favour of those countries concerning their official bilateral, commercial and multilateral debt;

25. Stresses the need for, in addition to debt-relief measures that include debt and debt-service reduction, new financial flows to debtor developing countries from all sources, and urges creditor countries and multilateral financial institutions to continue to extend concessional financial assistance, particularly to the least developed countries, in order to support the implementation of economic reforms, stabilization and structural adjustment programmes and the eradication of poverty by the developing countries so as to enable them to extricate themselves from the debt overhang and attract new investment and to assist them in achieving sustained economic growth and sustainable development;

26. Calls upon the international community, including the United Nations system, and invites the Bretton Woods institutions, as well as the private sector, to take urgent measures and action for the implementation of the commitments, agreements and decisions of the major United Nations conferences and summits organized since the beginning of the 1990s on development related to the question of external debt;

27. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session on the implementation of the present resolution.

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[5] Resolution 50/103, annex.

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OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT: ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

United Republic of Tanzania*: draft resolution

Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolutions 33/134 of 19 December 1978, in which it endorsed the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, 46/159 of 19 December 1991 on technical cooperation among developing countries, 49/96 of 19 December 1994 on a United Nations conference on South-South cooperation and 50/119 of 20 December 1995 on economic and technical cooperation among developing countries and a United Nations conference on South-South cooperation, as well as other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council on economic and technical cooperation among developing countries,

Reaffirming further that South-South cooperation constitutes an important element of international cooperation for development and is an essential basis for national and collective self-reliance as well as a means of ensuring the effective participation of the developing countries in the world economy and that it is not a substitute for, but rather complementary to, North-South cooperation,

Recognizing the fact that developing countries have the primary responsibility for promoting and implementing economic and technical cooperation among themselves, and reiterating the need for the international community to

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

support the efforts of the developing countries to expand South-South cooperation through the modality of economic and technical cooperation among developing countries,

Taking note of the decisions and recommendations contained in the Final Document of the Eleventh Conference of Heads of State or Government of the Non-Aligned Countries,[1] held at Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, in October 1995, and in this context welcoming the operationalization of the Non-Aligned Movement Centre for South-South Technical Cooperation, in Jakarta in 1998, and inviting all development partners to make use of and give support to the Centre,

Taking note also of the Declaration adopted by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77 at their twenty-first annual meeting,[2] held in New York on 26 September 1997, in which the Ministers emphasized the increasing importance and complementarity of economic and technical cooperation among developing countries as a means of supporting and broadening the global partnership in international development cooperation,

Welcoming the Declaration and Plan of Action adopted by the South-South Conference on Trade, Finance and Investment, held at San José, Costa Rica, from 15 to 19 January 1997, which outlined concrete modalities on sectoral issues relating to trade, finance, investment and enterprise cooperation,

Welcoming further the outcome of the Asia-Africa Forum II, held at Bangkok in June 1997, as a mechanism to strengthen South-South cooperation, as well as the convening of the Second Tokyo International Conference on African Development in October 1998, and calling upon the international community to reaffirm its commitment in supporting Africa's development efforts;

1. Endorses the report of the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries on its tenth session[3] and the decisions adopted by the High-level Committee at that session;[4]

2. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the state of South-South cooperation,[5] which provides a comprehensive and systematic overview and analysis of economic cooperation among developing countries in the context of South-South cooperation worldwide and of United Nations system support for such cooperation;

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[1] See A/50/752-S/1995/1035, annex III; see Official Records of the Security Council, Fiftieth Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1995, document S/1995/1035.

[2] A/52/460, annex.

[3] Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 39 (A/52/39).

[4] Ibid., annex I.

[5] A/52/402.

3. Takes note also of the draft revised Guidelines for the Review of Policies and Procedures concerning Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, submitted by the Administrative Committee on Coordination, and recommends that the draft revised Guidelines be submitted through the Economic and Social Council to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session in the context of the triennial policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system;

4. Invites the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries of the United Nations Development Programme, as well as other relevant organizations, to jointly undertake further work on formulating concrete recommendations on the follow-up and implementation of the Declaration and Plan of Action adopted by the South-South Conference on Trade, Finance and Investment;

5. Decides to intensify the process of strengthening the various interregional dialogues and the exchange of experiences among subregional and regional economic groupings for the purposes of expanding South-South cooperation through integrating the modalities of economic and technical cooperation among developing countries;

6. Calls upon all Governments and relevant United Nations organizations, including the multilateral financial institutions, to consider increasing allocations of resources for economic and technical cooperation among developing countries and to identify and support innovative funding modalities to promote South-South cooperation, such as triangular cooperation and private sector funding;

7. Welcomes the contribution made by some countries to the Voluntary Trust Fund for the Promotion of South-South Cooperation, and invites all countries, especially developed countries, to contribute generously to the Trust Fund;

8. Urges all parties in the development cooperation to make concerted, coordinated and vigorous efforts towards mainstreaming the modalities of economic and technical cooperation among developing countries in their operational activities by providing full support in the design, formulation, implementation and evaluation of programmes and projects;

9. Decides to hold a commemorative meeting during the fifty-third session of the General Assembly to mark the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries,[6] and to this end requests the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, in its capacity as substantive secretariat of the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries as well as system-wide coordinator on technical cooperation among developing countries, to be responsible for the preparation

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[6] Report of the United Nations Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, Buenos Aires, 30 August-12 September 1978 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.78.II.A.11 and corrigendum), chap. I.

and organization of the commemorative meeting, in consultation with the Member States and relevant organizations and agencies of the United Nations system;

10. Also requests the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, in consultation with the Member States and relevant organizations and agencies of the United Nations system, to prepare and submit, through the Economic and Social Council for consideration by the General Assembly at its fifty-third session, a comprehensive assessment of the progress made in the implementation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action and its impact since its adoption, as well as recommendations for the broadening of the global partnership in international development cooperation and strengthening the integration of the modalities of economic and technical cooperation among developing countries, in the context of the triennial policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system;

11. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session, in the context of the triennial policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, on the implementation of the present resolution;

12. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the sub-item entitled "Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries".